

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 8-13 are in the application. Claim 8 has been amended.

The Examiner objected to claim 8. Applicant has added the word "a" to line 9 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosch in view of Reid and Benware. Applicant respectfully traverses.

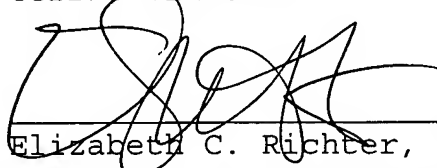
Applicant has amended claim 8 to clarify that the peripheral lugs have an underside that is inclined upwardly from the groove wall toward a central plane of the groove. This feature is shown in the drawings, in particular in FIGS. 1b, 1c, and 4a-4c. In contrast, the groove of Benware is rectangular and parallel to a floor of the groove.

The inclined lugs of the present invention causes the groove to form a conical shape rather than a cylindrical shape, as is

the case with Benware. In the present invention, the sealing ring has a corresponding inclined shoulder. This conical shape of the groove has advantages in that it better compensates wear of the tips of the sealing rings, because the sealing rings can be displaced radially towards the axis until the inclined shoulder 31 of the sealing ring comes into contact with the inclined underside of the peripheral lug.

This feature is not taught or suggested by any of the cited references, taken singly or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerrit VERWOERD

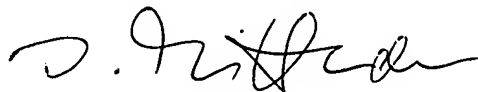


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